Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for the continuous production of composite or multi-layer membrane tubes, the multi-layer membrane tubes comprising a porous ~~sublayer (~~support layer~~)~~, mainly determining the mechanical strength of the membrane, and, adjacent to said porous support layer, a second layer of a material of different chemical nature, said second layer mainly determining the separation properties of the membrane (separating layer), said process comprising the steps of:

winding a respective flat sheet composite membrane lengthwise or spirally into a tubular form and forming a membrane tube, the separating layer of said membrane facing to the inside,

welding or gluing the edges of said membrane together, either overlapping or by butt welding, ~~and~~

applying on the inside of said butt seam or overlapping area a strip of a sealing material which can be solidified, and

~~finally~~ solidifying said sealing material.

2. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1~~, characterized that~~ in which the flat sheet composite membrane comprises an additional carrier layer made from woven or non-woven fabric.

3. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2 characterized by forming~~ in which the membrane tube is formed by winding said flat sheet composite membrane as a tape spirally around a mandrel or shaft.

4. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 ~~characterized by using as~~ in which the sealing material the same polymer from which the separating layer of the membrane is made.

5. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 3 in which ~~one of the aforesaid claims characterized by applying~~ the sealing material is applied by means of nozzle.

6. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim ~~3 and~~ 5~~,~~ in which said nozzle for the application of said sealing material ~~being~~ is located on said mandrel or shaft around which said flat sheet composite membrane strip is formed into a membrane tube, and in which the steps ~~performing the processes~~ of forming the membrane tube, gluing or welding the edges, application of the sealing material on the welding seam or overlapping area are performed in one step.

7. (Currently Amended) The process ~~Process~~ according to claim 1 ~~one of the aforesaid claims, characterized by~~ additionally comprising applying to said membrane tube, in addition to the carrier layer, one or more porous drainage layers.

8. (New) The process according to claim 2 in which the membrane tube is formed by winding said flat sheet composite membrane as a tape spirally around a mandrel or shaft.

9. (New) The process according to claim 8 in which the sealing material the same polymer from which the separating layer of the membrane is made.

10. (New) The process according to claim 8 in which the sealing material is applied by means of nozzle.

11. (New) The process according to claim 10 in which said nozzle for the application of said sealing material is located on said mandrel or shaft around which said flat sheet composite membrane strip is formed into a membrane tube, and in which the steps of forming the membrane tube, gluing or welding the edges, application of the sealing material on the welding seam or overlapping area are performed in one step.

12. (New) The process according to claim 11 additionally comprising applying to said membrane tube, in addition to the carrier layer, one or more porous drainage layers.

13. (New) The process according to claim 1 additionally comprising applying to said membrane tube, in addition to the carrier layer, one or more porous drainage layers.

14. (New) The process according to claim 2 additionally comprising applying to said membrane tube, in addition to the carrier layer, one or more porous drainage layers.